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# Virginia Wildlife

*Dedicated to the Conservation of  
Virginia's Wildlife and Related Natural Resources  
and to the Betterment of  
Outdoor Recreation in Virginia*

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**COVER:** Our largest and most prized bird, the wild turkey thrives best in large tracts of mature hardwoods broken here and there by small clearings and "edges." Once most plentiful in the Central Piedmont area of Virginia, the turkey is now most abundant in the Central Mountain region and is staging a spectacular comeback in parts of Southwest Virginia. Our artist: Daniel F. Ankudovich.

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## EDITORIAL

### Rising Expectations

WE live in the most revolutionary period in all history. The most constant experience in our lives is that of change. It has been called the *revolution of rising expectations*. It is worldwide. The rising aspirations that power it cover everything from freedom and dignity to living standards, leisure time and recreation.

It is not surprising that we are witnessing a revolution in our thinking and in our public policies with respect to outdoor resources and recreation. For three centuries prior to the twentieth our nation was engaged in fulfilling its manifest destiny to tame a wild continent. People hiked to get where they wanted to go. They picnicked and camped along the way as much out of necessity as by choice. They fished and hunted for food as well as sport. Until very recently outdoor recreation was not a subject for serious consideration in the making of public policy.

Public outdoor recreation as we think of it today began as a by-product of efforts to conserve timber, water, soil, and fish and wildlife resources. Programs which first produced or improved public outdoor recreational opportunities were resource oriented, rather than people oriented. What is radically new is that we now think of outdoor recreation itself in terms of public concern, public responsibility and public policy, and as a result conservation programs are becoming people oriented rather than resource oriented.

The advance from a resource oriented to a people oriented philosophy of resource management is a far-reaching development. Everyone can "identify" with some form of recreational interest. The words "outdoor recreation" make an excellent catch phrase that focuses everyone's attention on the outdoor environment, and gives back some personal identification with the outdoors to many people who for too long have been deprived of any meaningful relationship with the land and its resources.

But is outdoor recreation *as an end in itself* a proper purpose upon which to base public policy? Outdoor recreation is but one of many uses that people make of their environment. The revolution in our thinking may still have some distance to go before we achieve the ultimate in a philosophy to guide our actions and control our urge to act now and think later. Today's emphasis on providing public recreation facilities must make way eventually for an equal concern for the quality of our whole environment and the environmental resources which compose it.

Forests and waters, meadows and marshlands, are all components of an environment that people must use to fill not one but many needs. So are the fish and wildlife resources whose scarcity or abundance affects the quality of that environment whether people choose to catch, hunt, study or photograph them, or just see or hear them, or are content just to know that they are there.

People are going to go on expecting more and more of their environment in the way of material, esthetic, and recreational enjoyment. Their rising aspirations and expectations can be fulfilled only if we keep our resource programs people oriented, but at the same time recognize that environmental quality, rather than a limited concept of recreation, is our real concern.—J. F. Mc.

## LETTERS

SOME friends and I read the story "Rich Hole Country" by Robert H. Giles, Jr., in the March 1966 *Virginia Wildlife*. So two friends, my 16-year-old boy, and I took the Rich Hole Trail Saturday, September 17, camped on the ground that night, and came back out Sunday.

We saw lots of game signs—bear, deer, bobcat, heard the ravens, and flushed grouse like the author did.

We had a wonderful time and hope to do it again. This is real wilderness country, and I hope it can be kept so.

Chuck Davis  
Richmond

I have been reading your June issue of *Virginia Wildlife*. I enjoyed it very much, as I always do, especially Mr. Chamberlain's article about cross-billed crows.

I once lived in Harford County, Maryland. About thirty years ago they had a crow shoot in which I participated. I killed two old ones and four young ones that had cross bills. I think that they were all the same family as they were near the same places.

J. B. Good  
Appomattox

IN your September issue of *Virginia Wildlife* there was a splendid article by Dr. George W. Cornwell, Editor, *Virginia Outdoors*, entitled "Wings Over Grain Fields."

My only regret is that "Dr. George" did not enlighten his readers as to the best and correct way to shoot a dove. How much should a gunman lead his target? What is the best pump gun he should use? What is the best camouflage the hunter should wear? Where should he hide to avoid detection by a keen-eyed dove?

If Dr. Cornwell cannot furnish answers, maybe some of our readers would oblige by furnishing more information on how to shoot "Wings Over Grain Fields."

W. A. Towler, Jr.  
Halifax

*All right, we will accept that suggestion and ask that any of our other readers who consider themselves experts please enlighten Mr Towler. If Doctor George knows, he isn't telling.—Ed.*



# HUNTING REGULATIONS

## Tools of Many Uses

By GEORGE W. CORNWELL  
*Editor, Virginia Outdoors*

**T**HIS time of year Virginia's hunters are faced with a maze of laws that require nearly 100 pages of small print to catalog and summarize. Laws determine when and where to hunt, how many game animals to harvest, and how or how not to hunt. Whether or not a sportsman hunts within the law depends upon his ability to read, interpret, understand and accept the regulations.

There are three basic objectives behind all hunting regulations, many of which extend far back in history to pre-Biblical days. First and foremost, game laws are intended to keep man from killing animals to the point of extinction. Secondly, game laws are a tool used to regulate each year's harvest and influence the number of animals for next season's hunting. Thirdly, the laws attempt to assure each hunter an equal opportunity to harvest his fair share of the available game. In reality, some hunters harvest more game than others because of greater skill and more time and money to allocate to hunting. Sometimes the wife appears to have a regulatory influence on her husband's hunting effort.

Probably the most common and accepted hunting regulation involves time. When is the best time of the year to establish the hunting season, and what are the most desirable shooting hours in a day? Every good hunting regulation is based on biological knowledge of the game animal and the inter-relationships between the animal, its abundance, its vulnerability to hunting, and hunter interest and effort. For example, the mourning dove season is divided into two parts because of the migratory habits of doves and the fact that two different dove populations are being hunted, one in each part of the split season. Again in the case of the mourning dove, the birds are hunted only in the afternoon, thereby permitting half a day for feeding, watering, and resting without disturbance by hunters.

Laws help determine the places where we can hunt. We can't hunt legally within 300 feet of a numbered highway or roadway. We can't hunt on lands designated as wildlife sanctuaries and refuges. We can't hunt on posted land, or land where we lack the landowner's permission. A brief glance at the "Summary of Virginia Game Laws" (available from the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond) with its many cross-hatched maps, reveals the importance of relating your hunting location to specific restrictions and special regulations based on its location. A closure of the hunting season has the effect of creating a vast refuge within which the game animal has full legal protection.

Not only do we designate game animals by law, but we develop different laws for each kind of game animal. This is necessary because of differences in the biology of each

species of wildlife, differences in abundance between and within the species, and differences in the pressures exerted by hunters with the kind and location of game being hunted.

The harvest is also regulated by controlling the methods used by hunters. Special laws pertain to hunting with the bow and arrow, rifle, shotgun, and muzzle-loading weapons. The huge punt gun, a cannon once used in market hunting of waterfowl, is no longer a legal weapon. The bore of the shotgun and number of shells carried in the gun are governed by law. The use of domestic animals, such as dogs and ferrets, tends to be controlled in one way or another. The use of captive, live ducks as decoys to attract wild waterfowl is illegal. Restrictions are placed on the use of special equipment, such as electronic tape recordings, artificial lights, motors, and many others.

Another familiar group of laws restricts the size of the kill. Daily bag limits are enforced by game wardens making daily field checks. Possession limits are intended to prevent the hunter from shooting several daily limits over a short period of time. Season limits encourage the hunter to stop hunting for the year when he reaches a certain number. Possession and season limits do not lend themselves to rigid enforcement and are intended to be guidelines for the conservation-minded hunter, guidelines that will encourage him to stop when he has harvested his fair share of the crop.

Among the best regulations are those the hunter imposes upon himself. For example, over most of our quail range, there is an unwritten rule that a small covey, already hard-hit by an earlier hunter, is not shot when flushed. While this restriction does not appear as a Virginia law, it is nonetheless a hunter code important to the maintaining of shootable quail populations year after year. A second example is the agreement among waterfowl hunters on a marsh to avoid sky shooting and to permit the birds to come into the decoys before the first shot is fired. Every good hunter is aware of these unwritten codes of conduct.

Hunting regulations are as necessary to game management as traffic lights to the smooth flow of automobiles through a city. It is essential, however, that we not be bound to our regulations by tradition. To be effective, hunting regulation must have the popular support of the hunter. Therefore, we should continually evaluate and revise our regulations, adjusting them to new knowledge and to changes in the distribution and numbers of game animals.

Many existing regulations, after intensive study, might well be discarded. Others should undoubtedly be simplified. A few regulations might be made more complex and comprehensive. This is why Virginia hunters and game managers must get together and re-evaluate existing game laws each year.



# MOST CHANGES APPLY EAST OF THE BLUE RIDGE

By HARRY L. GILLAM  
*Information Officer*

THE third Monday in November, traditional opening date for Virginia's deer and eastern small game seasons, will be seven calendar days later this year than it was last year, due to the regular progression of calendar dates. Also affected was the first Monday in November, the opening date for small game and turkey hunting west of the Blue Ridge. Except for this delay factor, western seasons remained virtually unchanged from last year. The November 21 through December 3 western deer season gives two weeks for deer in this section, with doe shooting on the first day. Turkey hunters and small game enthusiasts will get their usual two-week head start on deer hunters in the west with a November 7 through January 31 season. The portion of Wise County north of Alternate Route 58 was closed to deer hunting this year because of deer restocking underway in that section.

East of the Blue Ridge and along the dividing line there are quite a few changes from the seasons and bag limits in effect last year. Portions of Madison and Greene Counties which had the two-week western deer season last year returned to the eastern season group. Eastern Amherst and Nelson will have a November 21 through January 5 deer season with a two deer per license year, bucks-only limit.

Madison and Greene Counties will have the same season except for a one-deer limit with either-sex shooting permitted on the first day only.

In Campbell County the east-west dividing line was moved westward from Route 29 to the Southern Railroad. This western portion of Campbell County and Pittsylvania County west of the Southern Railroad have the two-week season but a bucks-only limit to protect deer being stocked in that area by the Commission. The Northern Neck counties of Caroline, Essex, King George, King and Queen, Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond and Westmoreland will still have the November 21-January 5 season, but will have a limit of two deer per license year, one of which may be antlerless during the first 5 hunting days only. The remainder of eastern Virginia will have the same length season and bag limit as last year with the exception of King William County which was changed to a bucks-only limit, and Greensville County where one doe was permitted in the bag this year for the entire season.

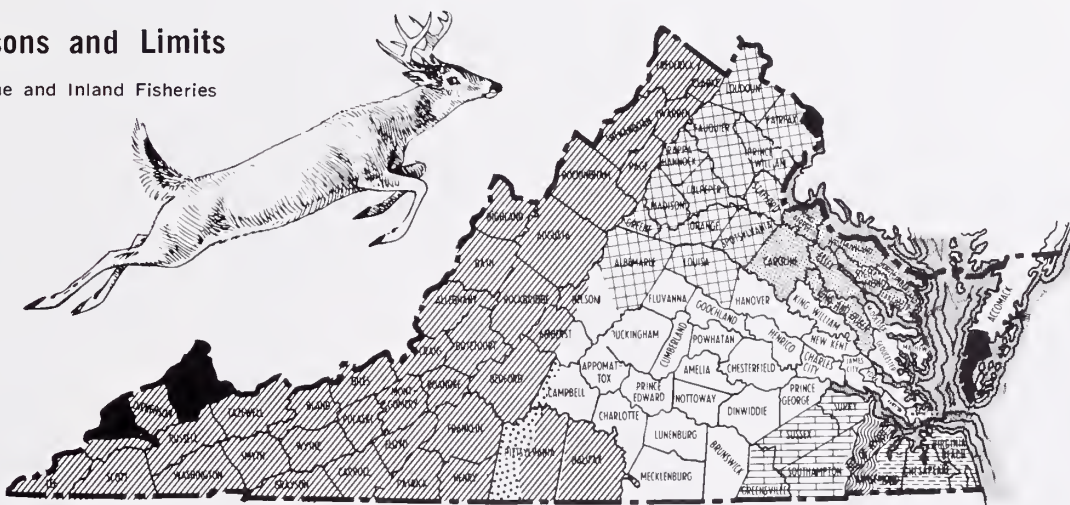
Eastern turkey hunters will get to start hunting on November 21 when the eastern deer and small game seasons open in place of the delayed opening day in effect during the past three years. The eastern turkey season will close early, however, ending on December 3. Quail hunting will continue until February 15 in Rappahannock, Amherst and Nelson Counties instead of the January 31 closing date last year. In the Commission's "Summary of Virginia Game Laws" folder, the map indicates that these counties close with the rest of eastern Virginia, but the type in the legend erroneously states that they will close January 31.

Two special hunts for sika deer are scheduled on the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge again this year during October, but the length of these hunts has been modified. Archers will have four days this year from October 12-15. A second 4-day hunt for archers and shotgunners is scheduled for October 19-22.

(More 1966-67 hunting information appears on pages 14 and 15.)

## 1966-67 Deer Seasons and Limits

Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries



CLOSED

November 21 - December 3—One deer\* per license year, either sex on the first day only (bucks only in Montgomery).

November 21 - January 5—One deer\* per license year, either sex on the first day only.

November 10 - January 5—Two deer\* per license year, one of which may be antlerless.

October 1 - November 30—Two deer\* per license year, one of which may be antlerless.

November 21 - December 3—Two deer\* per license year, bucks only.

\*Bucks with antlers visible above the hair except as otherwise specified.

November 21 - January 5—Two deer\* per license year, bucks only.

November 21 - January 5—Two deer\* per license year, one of which may be antlerless on first 5 hunting days only.

November 21 - January 5—Two deer per license year, one of which may be antlerless.

NO MORE THAN ONE DEER MAY BE TAKEN IN ANY ONE DAY



# Artistry in Wood

By CAPT. C. L. WILEY, USNR (RET.)

*Weems*

**H**OW does a man choose his recreation as release from his particular everyday job? And what chance is there of the recreation turning into a serious hobby? A real chance.

There's the physician who went into the woods every Sunday with his camera to get away from the frailties of human anatomy and soon found himself not only exhibiting, but collecting national and international awards for his pictures of majestic trees beside a quiet lake or a turbulent stream.

Then there is Ros Brumback. Ros is a dentist of Kilmarnock, Virginia, a nimrod turned wood-carver. He has always liked hunting and in an area noted for its "bird hunting" he had a ready-made recreation. Then, about four years ago, Ros was watching a movie on television showing two wood-carvers at work, and then and there, quietly, his serious hobby settled in beside him.

Inspired to immediate action, he started a jackknife project, whittling soft pine, shaping it into a bird. His love of duck hunting gave him a ready source of models, and now in the duck blind he may never fire a shot but, like the

In an area noted for its waterfowl and shorebirds, wood-carver Brumback is never at a loss for models. To emphasize its realism, one of Brumback's creations is shown below in natural shorebird habitat.



Ros Brumback, Kilmarnock dentist, a nimrod turned wood-carver.



"bloodless huntsman, to whom the woods and the streams belong," concentrate completely on the habits of ducks in flight, in feeding and sleeping.

His training as a dentist made him acutely aware of the anatomy of birds to the minutest detail, whether a depression in the bird's bill or a tendon in its leg. To the purposes of the average duck hunter Ros has added another dimension—that of conservation—in that he captures his bird and gives it permanence in its most characteristic pose, with coloring of body and blending of coloring in feathers, as valuable knowledge for the student as well as delight for the casual viewer.

Ros is out of the jackknife stage now; he has acquired wood-carver's tools, and uses for some of the more delicate details his dental instruments so familiar to his fingers. The old dental drill with its burrs and discs is handy nearby for intricate detailing and veining of feathers and such minutely delicate work.

I asked Ros how he set out on a carving project. "Well," he replied, "with a bird—or a waterfowl—in hand, which I have decided to carve, I picture him in the pose most frequently observed in the species. I then place the fowl in the icebox (not in freezer) for two or three days. This enables the feathers to fluff out to their original condition, for after a fowl is shot, rigor mortis sets in quickly, within a few minutes, causing the feathers to lie close to the body, resulting in a distorted form or shape.

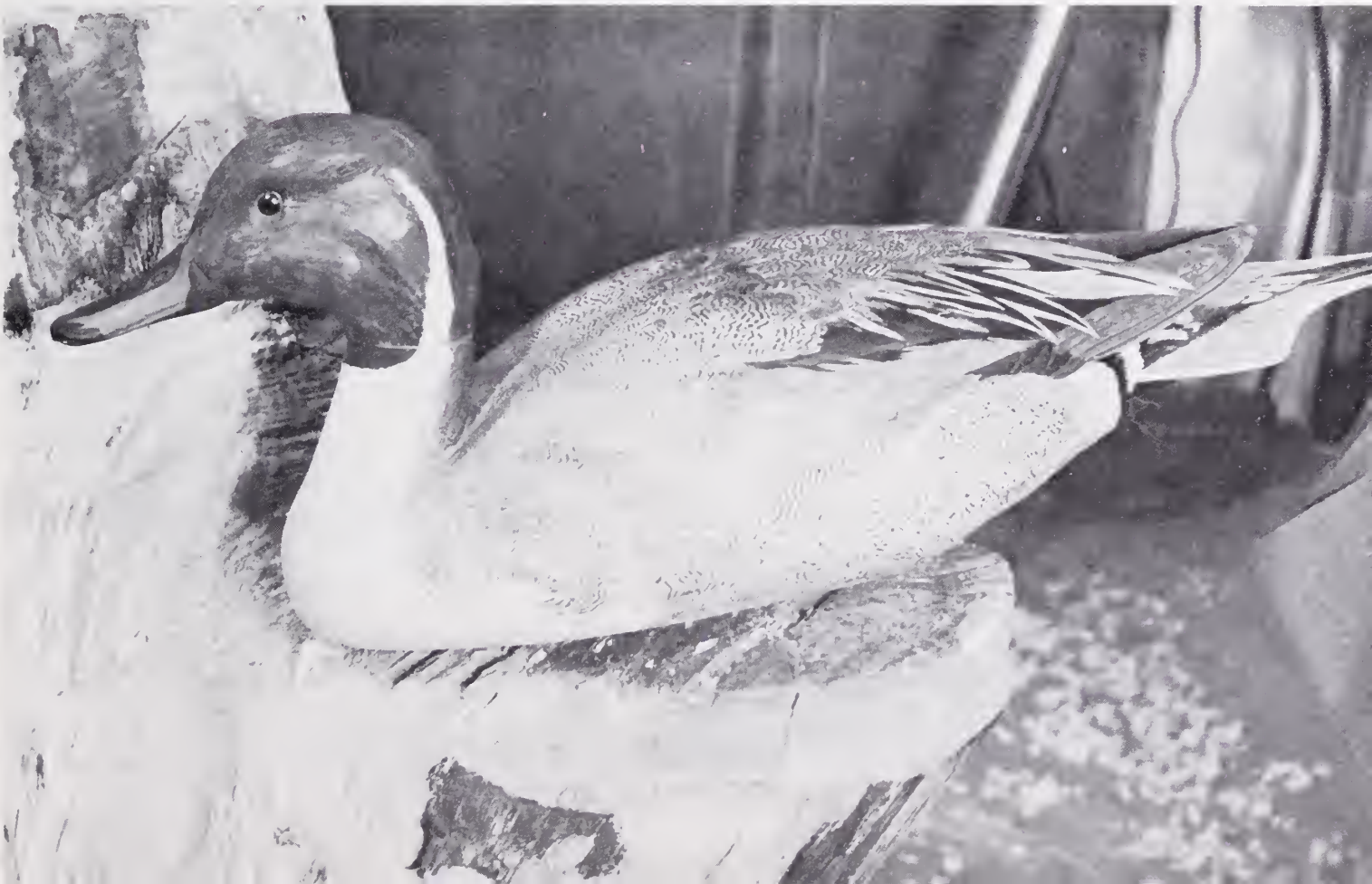
"After this waiting period, I make drawings in detail and in full life size, showing the profile, head on and a top view. These will later be reproduced in the chosen piece of wood to facilitate the "blocking in" of the carving.

"Game birds and birds of prey hold more romance for





To the purpose of the ordinary hunter Ros gives another dimension, that of capturing in wood his birds' most characteristic attitudes and poses.  
His ducks put most decoys to shame.





me. not only as a hunter (slowly turning soft) but as one who derives a sense of security and peace of mind from realizing how these birds have survived despite the hardships imposed upon them by both man and nature.

"Anyone who has looked at a crow or a coot or other seemingly nondescript fowl, and thought it ugly, simply has not examined it closely or tried to reproduce its fine iridescence."

Here Ros digressed to tell of his plan to shape a crow from a fine piece of ebony he had just got hold of. As he thrust his chin forward and flexed his shoulder muscles, one could almost see his crow's wing-strength; and it was evident that Ros, at least, didn't think of the crow as the poet did—"black from head to foot, body and soul"—but rather as the "I, Spartacus" of the bird kingdom with hoarse and raucous note, hurling defiance at his tormentors.

Coming back to his methods, Ros continued, "The wood is selected on the basis of strength and direction of the grain. For example, it's best to carve the tail of a 'Sprig' with the grain, or the flexed leg of a bird from the gnarled crotch of a limb."

"The more I learn about carving a piece of wood, the more I turn to the harder woods for they cut cleaner. They seem to have more varied grain patterns, and the result is more satisfying when completed. It takes more time and care and justifies the effort. Carving soft woods tempts one to hurry, resulting sometimes in a tearing of the wood and consequent inaccuracy."

Walking down the beach and across the marsh to the blind, Ros will stop many times and pick up a piece of driftwood and examine it as thoroughly as a jeweler would a precious stone. Fondly handling a piece of wood, he will study it and comment that "this would lend itself just perfectly for carving a snipe." Each piece of wood has a defi-

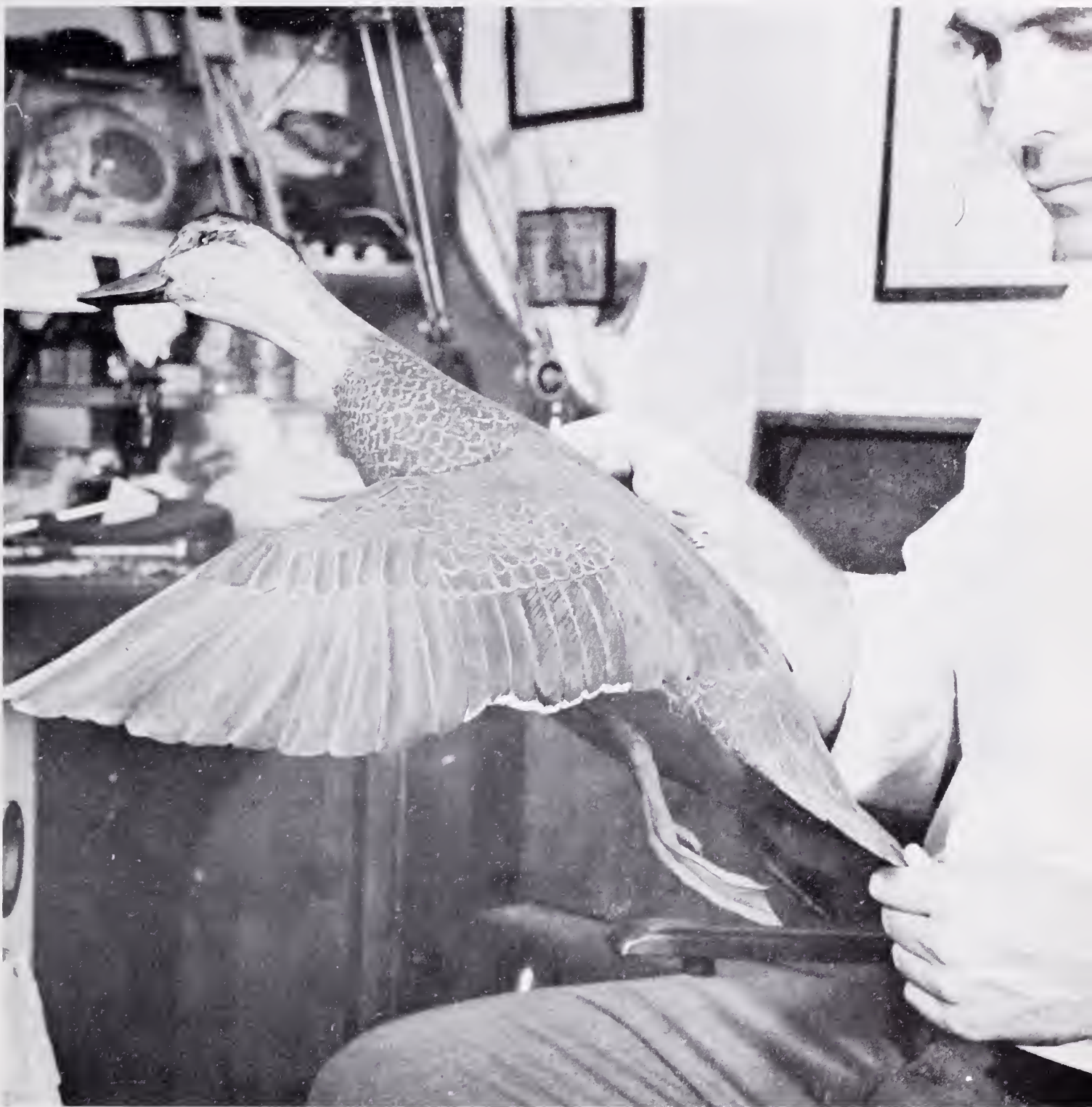


Canvasback drake and hen rest on studio chopping block fashioned from a forked tree stump.

Kilmarnock's young dentist with a "mixed bag" of his fine wood carvings.







Portraying the power of the black duck's wingbeat and glorifying the grace and beauty of a waterfowl in flight, here is artistry in wood carving at its very best.

nite significance to his trained eye. What would be fine wood to most of us, in the skilled and talented hands of the wood-carver will be a beautifully executed form of a pin-tail or other duck, so real that many have mistaken them for the work of a taxidermist.

Ros' studio is a small den in his home where he can chop and cut without having the family underfoot or to tell him to "clean up that mess." The floor is usually covered with wood chips and shavings, but when it gets too deep he has an industrial vacuum constantly ready in the corner.

In the center of the small studio is the chopping block which is a forked tree stump sawed off square. One fork is used for roughing out the form from a block of wood with a small hand adz, and the other fork has a metal swivel vise where the rough shape can be fastened for more finished roughing and detailing.

Here, hunter, dentist and wood-carver meet in the hands of the artist. Through his artistry and skill, Ros Brumback has added much to the sport of duck hunting, and found for himself a most satisfying "serious hobby."



# WHEN BUZZ

By ROBERT H. GILES, JR., Ph.D.  
*College of Forestry, Wildlife, and Range Sciences*  
*University of Idaho*

A MERE dot of a shadow crept across the barn yard, over the shed, and into the woods. Chickens fearful of hawks did not stop their busy shopping for novelties in the dirt; cud-chewing cows were more concerned with the flies than with the flying. Black wings, as wide as a tall man, circled the farm again and glided on fresh currents to new areas. The next day a litter of pigs just farrowed in the field was found, some dead, some alive with gouged eyes, tails missing, some eviscerated, and others with torn navels. Similar scenes are becoming more common as a Jekyll and Hyde transformation changes the habits of one of America's most sinister-looking creatures—the vulture.

For thousands of years, two species of vultures, the turkey and the black, have roamed the airways above most of central and eastern America playing the valuable role of scavenger. As the garbage-collection section of Nature's service department, the vultures confined their diets to dead game, snakes, livestock, and fish. When times got rough, they occasionally resorted to frost-bitten pumpkins and garbage. They were not choosy and any kind of carrion sufficed. Their feet and claws were not suited to capturing and killing like the true birds of prey. They seemed content in their role as opportunists. They waited for old age or diseases to provide them a dead meal or they sought crumbs from the tables of active killers. Feast or famine was the pattern as vultures flocked to gather their portions of fate's bounties.

Until recently, the pattern of the vultures' feeding had been thus. Hissing and flapping around a carcass, they constantly competed with each other for a share. They first attacked the eyes, then the shoulder and the intestines. Thrusting their red or black featherless heads between torn flesh, skin, and bones, they sought the choice portions first, seeming to be unaware of the foul odors of their fare. Some scientists believe these odors enable them to locate their food. Whenever found, food was bolted, then digested after the vultures returned to the sky to resume their relentless search for more carrion.

As a scavenger, the vulture has been regarded as a beneficial bird. In the community of living things, its role has been important in ridding the fields and shores of unsightly, odorous dead animals and fish, preventing the spread of diseases among animals and men, and providing an easy, inexpensive disposal for dead livestock. Besides these material benefits, the vultures were thought to play a significant part in the balance of nature or web of life which is an expression of how plants, animals, soil, trees, and water are interrelated, each depending on the others for their proper functioning. Though this value or benefit cannot be defined so clearly, it nevertheless will become more real as scientists learn more and more about the big black birds.

Some of Roosevelt's Rough Riders, who had shown extreme courage and fortitude throughout the battle of

Baiguiri, went into hysterics at the sight of black vultures on their fallen comrades in the underbrush. "Repulsion" inadequately describes the emotions that surge involuntarily within a person upon confronting a vulture at close hand. However, T. G. Pearson in *Bird-Lore* described the creature when aloft as "flight in its utmost perfection." The vulture is a living paradox of grace and awkwardness, beauty and corruption, patience and greed. Its esthetic values to hundreds of Americans can never be totaled.

At first glance, the life of vultures seems to be a bed of benefits and salmon-colored clouds. In the standard *Birds of America*, T. G. Pearson stated with confidence that vultures never attack living animals excepting—and this very rarely—creatures which are disabled or dying of disease or injuries. Not many years later, however, there began creeping into the scientific literature reports of a strange and disquieting change in the feeding habits of the vultures.

Pigs and sheep were reported killed by black vultures near Hillsboro, Ohio, in 1936. Mr. E. A. McIlhenny observed on a Florida wildlife refuge in 1939 that black vultures attacked live skunks and opossum. Reports appeared gradually. In 1941 Hamilton reported turkey vultures attacking pigs in Florida, and, from then on, the record listed black vultures killing lambs and ewes in Texas in 1942; lambs in West Virginia in 1946; pigs in Kentucky in 1941 and 1949; pigs and sheep in Texas in 1954; and in 1960 both kinds of vultures damaging pigs, lambs, calves, and cows in Virginia.

Vultures have never been numerous though it might appear so because of their conspicuous size and the large territories they cover. Though the young during the first eight to ten weeks before flight have many enemies, the adults have few if any significant ones. Buzzards require no special types of vegetation for food or shelter, and they have not been in competition with man. As settlement of the country increased, wildlife numbers decreased. The vultures were probably satisfied by tidbits of an increasing livestock industry which balanced the wildlife loss. As native as the Indian, vultures maintained a peaceful status quo for centuries. However, in later years, they began to increase as the livestock industry increased, for vultures, like other forms of wildlife, are as abundant as there is food available for them. By the late 1930's, the cumulative effects of man's activities across the country began to be felt. The dead animal was the strange portion that began changing the buzzards from peaceful Dr. Jekylls into Mr. Hydes. Within a short period rangeland became cropland, and buzzards didn't eat corn and wheat. Wildlife numbers decreased as their lands were farmed by more and more people and as more acres were covered with cities, concrete, and black-top. Public health laws required that livestock which died must be burned or buried. Rendering companies took advantage of improved transportation to collect dead animals. Improved sanitation around garbage dumps and slaughter



# BIRDS GO BAD



Photo by L. L. Rue III

houses decreased vulture food supplies. Fewer farm animals died as they were receiving better care. Antibiotics, testing programs, and improved medical care further reduced the amount of carrion available to the birds. As food became scarce, vultures were starved. They sought food—meat—and their course of least resistance led them to lambs, pigs, and calves usually less than a week old, and to the weakened mothers of these young.

Today this same pattern is appearing within smaller areas. Annual local market and agricultural changes cause ups and downs in available vulture foods. Vultures wax and wane with these changes, but not immediately. During the lag periods, as vultures adjust to the ability of the environment to support them, livestock attacks are made. The vulture changes from scavenger to predator.

Understanding that the Frankensteinian monster looming over his fields is a creation of his own hands, man can better control its behavior. It is possible to secure a harmony between man and the vulture. "Kill them all before they get any worse!" is a cure that has always proved worse than the illness. The answer to the increasing problem lies in improved livestock management, close observation and protection of animals during and for a week after birth, and increased protection including close-to-home holding of young livestock. Livestock losses to vultures are insignificant in the total picture of production and loss although indi-

vidual farmers may be hard hit. Should losses become severe in any area, control of individual offenders might be required.

These observations of radical change in the vultures are symptomatic. They are the abdominal rumbling of a sleepy giant beginning to feel the wrath of a chronic case of human population explosion. More people use more resources in more and different ways. These people and their activity radically influence nature—all of its forms. The vulture need not, certainly must not, be restored to its original abundance, any more than the buffalo should be restored to its abundance. Symptoms are *early* signs, warnings, that allow time for study, preparation, and action. Valid interpretation of such symptoms allows man to maintain a balance with nature.

A Beauty and Beast under one feathered cloak, the giant friarlike vulture sails the horizon seemingly as free as the wind. Even when so high as to be almost out of sight there are dangling invisible puppet strings with which man controls the life and fate of vultures. Knowledge of their habits and needs and an intimate knowledge of the ecological landscape where a bloody, almost supernatural drama is being enacted will decide man's success as a puppeteer for Mother Nature. It is unlikely that the animate symbol of fate will find its very existence *entirely* in the hands of fate. It could be in the hands of men who understand and care.



# BUT SOMETIMES HE FORGOT

GEORGE M. DODSON  
*Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

WHEN Henry Q. Outdoors thought of himself as a good sportsman, he had plenty of fine reasons to back up that opinion. He was experienced in all phases of hunting, he read widely and knew the rules and, most important of all, he wanted to do the right thing.

But Henry had one undesirable habit. Sometimes he forgot.

He knew that a serious question about conservation deserved an honest answer. Just this once he used a wisecrack instead of giving the information he had readily available. So he traded a potential conservationist for an embarrassed laugh. Later, Henry doubted that it had been a very good trade.

Probably no one knew more about safety rules than Henry. But sometimes he forgot that the best way to teach them is through example. To tell the truth, nothing usually went wrong when he slipped up. But now and then his safety shortcut would be observed by a younger member of his hunting party. It would have bothered Henry if he had realized how often these less experienced hunters were watching his actions rather than listening to his words when safety was being discussed.

Henry obeyed not only the rules and regulations; he also felt common courtesy had a place in hunting. But this particular morning he got off to a late start, and he couldn't locate the landowner immediately. Well, let's face the facts. Henry passed up getting the landowner's permission. Possibly the first time he had ever done it, and the farmer didn't even raise a fuss about it. Henry forgot—but the farmer didn't. Next year there was a bit more posted land.

Although Henry thought of hunting as the greatest of all activities, he generally cooperated with other sportsmen whenever possible. Just once he referred to a serious ornithologist as a silly bird-watcher. In all fairness, Henry spoke too quickly and half in jest. Nevertheless, he had contributed his two cents' worth toward splitting conservation-minded people into groups instead of trying to unite them for the good of the cause.



He knew all the safety rules, but sometimes he forgot.

Some days are sure to be less exciting and interesting than others. Well, this particular day was pretty dull, and the game stayed out of Henry's sight. So he mixed a little target practice with his hunting. He never told anyone about the highway sign he hit but deep down he felt ashamed of himself. You see, he knew better but this time he sort of forgot.

Don't ever worry that Henry would forget to have his hunting equipment in first-class condition. Often he was ready so far ahead of time that his wife teased him about being prepared in case they decided to move the opening date forward a couple of weeks. But do you know what Henry forgot to check out once in a while? Himself! Yes, that's right: Henry forgot Henry!

So sometimes he didn't have his eyes tested regularly, overlooking the fact that he was a year older than last season, and that sight in outdoor distances differs from glancing at the calendar across the office where Henry spent most of his working hours. And he was terribly rushed right before his vacation so he forgot to get into physical condition for the sudden change in his activities. Actually, Henry suffered no lasting ill effects, although he got a little less fun from hunting than he had expected.

Henry's friends like him. They say he means well—but in the woods that expression doesn't always sound like a compliment! Mostly, when they think about him, they say to themselves, "Henry knows better. It's a pity that he sometimes forgets to put his knowledge into practice."

As for Henry, he still sees himself as a good sportsman. And he easily could be. In fact, he almost is. If he just didn't keep forgetting.

He forgot to ask the farmer's permission to hunt, and the next year a bit more land was posted.

Commission photo by Kesteloo





# CONSERVATIONGRAM

Commission Activities and Late Wildlife News . . . At A Glance

GAME, FISH, BOAT VIOLATIONS DECLINE. Wardens of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries apprehended 6,422 persons for violation of the game, fish and boating laws during the 1965-66 fiscal year, a slight decrease over the 6,810 arrested during the same period a year earlier. A total of 6,043 were convicted.

The 2,751 convictions for violation of the fishing laws topped the list of illegal acts. Fishing without a license was the most common violation, but the number of fishing trespass cases increased. Arrests for violations of size limit regulations were down as fishermen apparently became more accustomed to 12-inch minimum size limits established on some streams during 1964 and 1965.

A total of 2,520 were convicted of violating the game laws. Trespass cases, as usual, topped the hunting violation list followed closely by hunting without a license. Convictions for unlawful guns were up over the previous year.

The number of convictions for both hunting and fishing with improper licenses was up from the previous year as was the number of second convictions for hunting and fishing violations. Over 200 hunters and fishermen had their licenses revoked during the year.

Boat violations again decreased slightly with only 772 convictions during the year. Equipment violations were down, but the number of cases of reckless and drunken operation increased.

Virginia's 113 man warden and supervisory force put in 332,723 man hours during the year. They traveled over 3 million miles by road and almost 100,000 miles by water in performance of their duties. They checked 84,718 hunters, 144,898 fishermen and 40,153 boats.

FALL MUSKY STOCKING COMPLETED. Fall releases of muskellunge reared at the Game Commission's King and Queen Fish Cultural Station began in mid-September and were completed last month. Releases this year totaled 5,500 of the young muskies by the time the stocking was completed.

As part of an experiment to determine the most desirable size muskies for stocking, over 1,000 were stocked in late July and early August in the South Fork of the Shenandoah, Lake Nelson, Lake Shenandoah and Lake Brittle. They averaged about 3 inches in length at that time. The Shenandoah received 400, and each of the three state-owned lakes were stocked at the rate of 5 per acre. These lakes received a subsequent stocking of marked muskies averaging over 8 inches in September. The difference in recovery rates between the marked and unmarked fish should give a good indication of the relative survival rates of the two sizes.

Smith Mountain Lake received the lion's share of over 3,000 of the 8-9 inch muskies stocked this fall. The James River between Columbia and Irwin received 300, and streams in southwest Virginia received 400. One hundred fifty went into Mariners Museum Lake, and a lake at Camp Peary received 60. These lakes were stocked to test the ability of the muskies to adapt to such small bodies of water and to waters in the Tidewater section of the state.

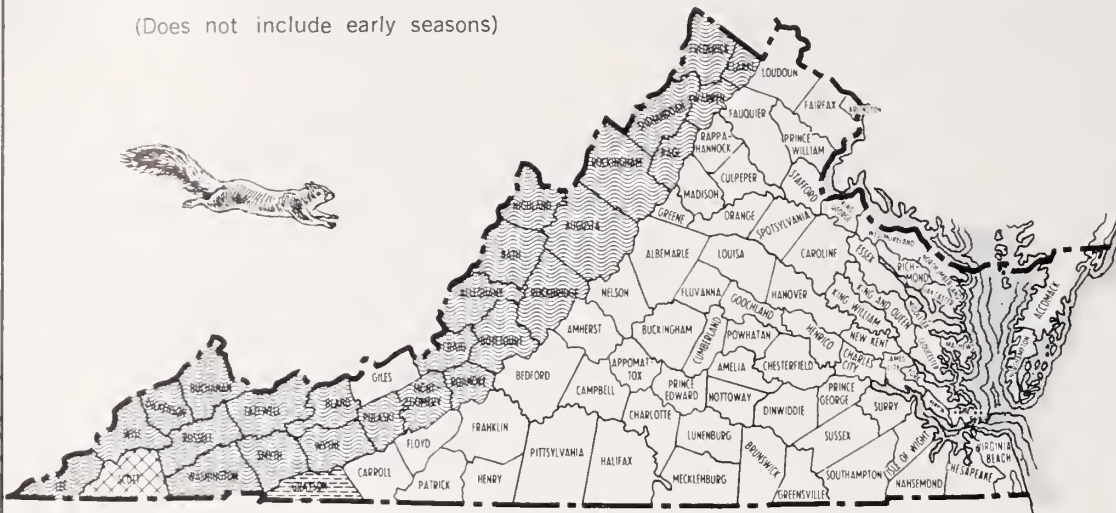
An unknown but relatively large number of the original 6,840 (mostly 3-inch) fish stocked in Smith Mountain Reservoir in 1964 were recovered by anglers last summer. Sub-legal size muskies have been caught from the James and Shenandoah Rivers, and the Shenandoah produced its first keeper, a 7 pounder, in late August. Legal specimens were also taken from Lake Brittle and Lake Shenandoah last summer. Judging by past growth records, the fish stocked this fall should reach the legal 26-inch minimum in the spring or summer of 1968.



## 1966-67 Squirrel Seasons and Limits

Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries

(Does not include early seasons)



November 7 - January 31

November 21 - January 15

November 21 - January 31

November 21 - January 1

October 15 - January 31 Camp Pickett Military Reservation only

BAG LIMIT: 6 per day; 75 per license year.

## 1966-67 Rabbit, Grouse and Quail Seasons and Limits

Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries



November 7 - January 31 (Rabbits, Quail & Grouse)

November 21 - January 31 (Rabbits & Grouse)  
November 21 - February 15 (Quail)

November 21 - January 15 (Rabbits); November 21 - February 15 (Quail)

### BAG LIMITS

Rabbits: 6 per day; 75 per license year.

Grouse: 3 per day; 15 per license year.

Quail: 8 per day; 125 per license year.

November 7 - December 1

November 21 - December 1

November 21 - January 1

November 21 - December 1

Closed to turkey hunting



November 21 - January 1

November 7 - January 1

October 1 - November 1

November 10 - January 1



# 6-67 Turkey Season and Limits

Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries



er 17—Two of either sex per license year

er 3—Two of either sex per license year

31—Two gobblers per license year

er 3—Two gobblers per license year

ng.

NO MORE THAN ONE TURKEY MAY BE TAKEN IN ANY ONE DAY.

# 6-67 Bear Seasons and Limits

Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries



BAG LIMIT

1 per license year (over 75 pounds live weight).

## BIG GAME KILL

County or City	1963-64		1964-65		1965-66	
	Deer	Beor Turkey	Deer	Beor Turkey	Deer	Beor Turkey
Accomack.....	70	.....	62	.....	62	.....
Albemarle.....	652	5	28	383	22	31
Alleghany.....	515	34	65	581	15	140
Amelia.....	505	.....	60	303	.....	61
Amherst.....	248	23	21	254	11	41
Appomattox.....	151	.....	25	107	.....	24
Augusta.....	1,243	47	130	1,254	44	263
Bath.....	1,349	30	282	1,387	6	442
Bedford.....	46	11	.....	37	6	17
Bland.....	279	14	.....	218	6	223
Botetourt.....	510	37	39	551	7	158
Brunswick.....	256	.....	21	154	.....	25
Buckingham.....	1,789	.....	37	810	.....	427
Campbell.....	10	.....	16	22	.....	12
Caroline.....	1,369	.....	45	1,258	.....	50
Corroll.....	48	.....	.....	43	.....	42
Charles City.....	1,059	.....	.....	586	.....	157
Charlotte.....	60	.....	16	36	.....	25
Chesterfield.....	601	.....	44	328	.....	41
Clarke.....	88	.....	.....	104	.....	91
Craig.....	643	8	91	707	7	192
Culpeper.....	114	.....	.....	50	.....	47
Cumberland.....	768	.....	27	460	.....	63
Dickenson.....	11	.....	.....	14	.....	20
Dinwiddie.....	585	.....	55	371	.....	31
Essex.....	148	.....	.....	165	.....	157
Fairfax.....	54	.....	.....	20	.....	15
Fauquier.....	355	.....	33	214	.....	32
Floyd.....	40	.....	.....	64	.....	55
Fluvanna.....	800	.....	18	541	.....	29
Franklin.....	69	.....	.....	65	.....	66
Frederick.....	412	.....	27	500	.....	92
Giles.....	501	3	.....	542	7	107
Gloucester.....	243	.....	.....	286	.....	120
Goochland.....	387	.....	15	197	.....	12
Groynson.....	374	.....	.....	382	.....	399
Greene.....	44	8	.....	47	7	23
Greensville.....	297	.....	.....	328	.....	175
Halifax.....	126	.....	17	77	.....	22
Hanover.....	182	.....	.....	137	.....	2
Henrica.....	145	.....	.....	82	.....	46
Henry.....	1	.....	.....	8	.....	4
Highland.....	614	10	185	566	10	269
Isle of Wight.....	468	.....	.....	483	.....	506
James City.....	591	.....	.....	334	.....	152
King & Queen.....	275	.....	14	256	.....	17
King George.....	402	.....	.....	420	.....	437
King William.....	353	.....	.....	377	.....	470
Lancaster.....	618	.....	.....	538	.....	631
Lee.....	26	.....	.....	36	.....	59
Loudoun.....	228	.....	.....	104	.....	95
Louisa.....	468	.....	19	245	.....	36
Lunenburg.....	51	.....	14	89	.....	17
Madison.....	19	6	.....	15	12	30
Mathews.....	155	.....	.....	83	.....	23
Mecklenburg.....	63	.....	.....	57	.....	22
Middlesex.....	118	.....	.....	118	.....	49
Montgomery.....	7	1	.....	18	.....	145
Nansemond.....	660	9	.....	484	11	477
Nelson.....	253	7	11	127	12	40
New Kent.....	1,027	.....	1	570	.....	5
Newport News-Hampton.....	162	.....	.....	172	.....	111
Norfolk (Chesapeake).....	1,151	7	.....	763	7	626
Northumberland.....	364	.....	.....	366	.....	430
Nottoway.....	611	.....	18	141	.....	13
Orange.....	126	.....	31	55	.....	24
Page.....	176	4	.....	279	.....	296
Patrick.....	255	.....	.....	257	.....	242
Pittsylvania.....	37	.....	12	36	.....	10
Powhatan.....	544	.....	23	315	.....	27
Prince Edward.....	163	.....	11	61	.....	19
Prince George.....	878	.....	14	420	.....	17
Prince William.....	306	.....	30	296	.....	40
Princess Anne (Va. Beach).....	44	.....	.....	60	.....	73
Pulaski.....	160	.....	.....	149	2	170
Rappahannock.....	115	3	.....	74	3	82
Richmond.....	349	.....	.....	353	.....	359
Raanoke.....	13	.....	.....	11	.....	8
Rackbridge.....	509	35	127	477	7	293
Rackingham.....	1,203	63	25	1,273	41	1,427
Russell.....	2	.....	.....	6	.....	10
Scott.....	195	.....	.....	137	.....	148
Shenandoah.....	763	4	36	820	3	147
Smyth.....	599	4	.....	451	1	437
Southampton.....	1,609	.....	.....	1,384	.....	1,447
Spotsylvania.....	464	.....	46	177	.....	51
Stafford.....	799	.....	37	496	.....	27
Surry.....	824	.....	12	920	.....	13
Sussex.....	694	.....	33	780	.....	25
Tazewell.....	115	.....	.....	91	5	87
Warren.....	301	.....	.....	340	1	375
Washington.....	174	.....	.....	172	.....	154
Westmoreland.....	222	.....	.....	162	.....	138
Wise.....	84	.....	.....	71	.....	37
Wythe.....	304	7	.....	401	6	349
York.....	519	.....	.....	541	.....	590
TOTALS.....	38,377	380	1,811	31,162	259	3,266
					27,983	246
						3,129

Turkey horvost figures da nat include spring kills.



# Here's how to get the most out of your venison

By RAYMOND SCHUESSLER

**T**OO often venison is poorly handled in the field and improperly cooked in the kitchen. Then what could have been a truly delightful meat is relished only by the family pets. After all, if you count up license, gun, bullets, camping gear and travel expenses, this meat will probably be the most expensive you will eat all year, so why not handle it carefully?

Every step in getting wild game to the table is important. Good table meat starts with a good animal handled correctly in the field and ends with skillful use of the correct cooking methods.

First of all, it's important where you shoot the deer. If you should fail to lead a running deer sufficiently, you may strike him in the can and ruin most of the contents.

## Dress the Carcass Immediately

The game must be cleaned and cooled immediately. This is especially important if the hunting season is warm. Blood that has settled around openings made by shot must be cut out to avoid a bitter taste.

A carrier or rack on the top of the car will allow air to circulate around the carcass and help keep it cool. Heavy canvas can be used to protect the meat.

Never carry venison home in a tightly closed car trunk. The hood of the car, where the engine heat is transferred to the meat, is the worst possible place to carry your game.

## Aging

There is no general agreement on the value of aging venison. Most feel that a 5- to 10-day aging period is valuable provided it can be managed at a constant temperature under sanitary conditions. A temperature of 40° is good.

Aging is best done in a locker plant or meat cooler. Many butchers will hang your deer in their coolers for a few days if you request it. Under most conditions high daytime temperatures during the deer season make it unwise to age venison without refrigeration.

## Cutting Your Deer

In most areas butchers will cut and wrap venison for freezer storage. But it is your responsibility to tell the butcher just how you want your deer cut. Make a list of what you would like from each of the major cuts. Ask your butcher for advice. He can judge the quality of your animal and make helpful suggestions.

Count on 50 to 70 pounds of locker meat for every 100 pounds of meat carried from the woods.

Here is a good guide to cutting your meat shapes:

Make rib steaks at least 1½ inch thick.

Cut round steaks 2 inches thick and use for Swiss steak.

Cut roasts for your family size. You can get two roasts large enough for a family of four from each shoulder, and two rump roasts.



Commission photo by Harrison

Every step in getting venison to the table is important. The first step is a good clean kill.

When you grind, add ½ pound beef or pork fat to each 5 pounds of lean ground venison.

Remove all visible fat before freezing.

Many find it convenient to take meat for deerburger to the local meat market to be ground in a power grinder. Some markets specialize in custom-smoking venison. Others make luncheon meat and hard sausages from deer meat furnished by the hunter. The price is usually quite reasonable, and the products are real delicacies. Check your community for this service.

## Freezing Your Wrapped Venison

Even if you have a home freezer there may not be room to freeze the meat quickly. Stacked meat may take several days before it is frozen solid. During that time juices are lost and quality is lowered. It may be worth taking the wrapped meat to the local locker plant for freezing. Use venison within 6 to 9 months for best quality.

## Cooking Venison

If you shot a good deer and handled it correctly, cooking the meat will be a delightful experience. Venison, like other meat, has a flavor all its own. The strong gamey flavor is most pronounced in the fat. Some feel that the bone marrow also makes the meat strong, so be careful not to get marrow on the meat.



If your family enjoys the natural flavor of venison, your only cooking problem is to make the meat tender. If your family rebels at a gamey flavor, there are three things that you can do to increase their enjoyment.

1. Disguise the flavor with spices, herbs, and other seasonings.

2. Dilute the flavor by choosing recipes using stuffings or starch fillers, or use the meat with other meats and vegetables.

3. Serve venison in so many different ways that the family learns to like it.

Here are some general rules to start you off toward successful venison cookery.

Cook venison like low quality beef. Most game has little fat and corresponds in quality to beef carcasses with little or no external fat, and should be cooked accordingly. The tender cuts like the loin and rib can be broiled or roasted. Round steak, meat from the leg, and the less tender cuts are best when cooked by moist heat: braising, stewing, or pot roasting.

Do not overcook. Deer meat has short fibers that toughen quickly if overcooked or cooked at too high a temperature. Plan to serve venison medium to well done, never rare or overdone.

Use acid to tenderize. Vinegar, tomato sauce, and French-dressing sauces are good for tenderizing venison. Cover slices or chunks of meat and allow to stand in the marinating sauces for at least 24 hours.

Reduce the sugar in sauce recipes. Venison's natural flavor is sweeter than other meat. Sauces made for domestic meats may be too sweet. Use  $\frac{1}{4}$  less sugar.

Remove all venison fat before cooking. The gamey flavor is most pronounced in the fat, and venison fat becomes rancid quickly. Ground pork or beef fat may be substituted, or the surface may be covered with bacon strips.

#### *Roasting (round, loin, shoulder)*

1. Season with salt and pepper.

2. Place on rack in uncovered pans; cover surface with bacon strips.

3. Do not add water; do not cover.

4. Roast in slow oven (300°-350°F.) allowing 20-25 minutes per pound.

#### *Broiling (steaks and chops)*

1. Preheat the broiler.

2. Place steaks or chops on the broiling rack with top surface 3 inches below source of heat.

3. Leave the broiler door open unless directions of range advise otherwise.



The hood of a car, where engine heat is transferred to the deer, is the worst place to carry your game.

Load the carcass where air can circulate around it and help keep it cool.

Commission photo by Kesteloo





4. Broil on one side until nicely browned. Season with salt and pepper. Turn to other side. Broil until done. For a 1½ inch steak, the time required will be 7 to 10 minutes for the first side; 5 to 7 minutes for the second. (Try broiling in your fireplace over a bed of glowing coals.)

#### *Panbroiling*—frying (steaks and chops)

1. Heat a heavy frying pan until it is sizzling hot.
2. Add 1 tablespoon butter to the pan and allow to melt, or rub the pan with a little suet or small amount of fat. Place the meat in the hot pan.
3. Brown both sides—turn only once.
4. Reduce heat after browning to finish cooking thick chops or steaks.

### COOKING VENISON BY MOIST HEAT METHODS (FOR LESS TENDER CUTS)

#### *Braising* (shoulder, neck, breast)

1. Season with salt and pepper; rub with flour.
2. Brown on all sides in hot fat.
3. Add small quantity of water (about 1 cup)
4. Cover closely.
5. Cook *very slowly* until tender. Turn the meat occasionally. (Time—usually 2 to 3 hours.)

#### *Stewing* (shoulders, shank, neck)

1. Cut meat into cubes about 1 inch in size.
2. Season with salt and pepper; sprinkle with flour.
3. Brown on all sides in hot fat.
4. Cover with boiling water.

5. Cover kettle tightly and cook very slowly until tender. Do not boil. Add vegetables just long enough before serving time so that they will be tender.

### Recipes

The following recipes give directions for using venison. Venison can be used in most of your favorite meat dishes.

*Poyha*—(a different meatloaf recipe handed down to us by the Cherokee Indians)

- 1 pound ground venison
- 1 No. 303 can whole kernel corn
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup cornmeal
- ½ cup water

Measure the cornmeal and place in a small bowl. Add the water and stir to mix. Allow to stand. Brown the venison in fat. When meat is thoroughly cooked add the corn and onion. Cook 10 minutes. Add the salt, egg, and cornmeal; stir well. Cook another 15 minutes. Put in greased loaf pan and bake 30-45 minutes at 350°. Serve with cheese sauce or mushroom soup.

#### *Venison Meat Balls* (serves 4)

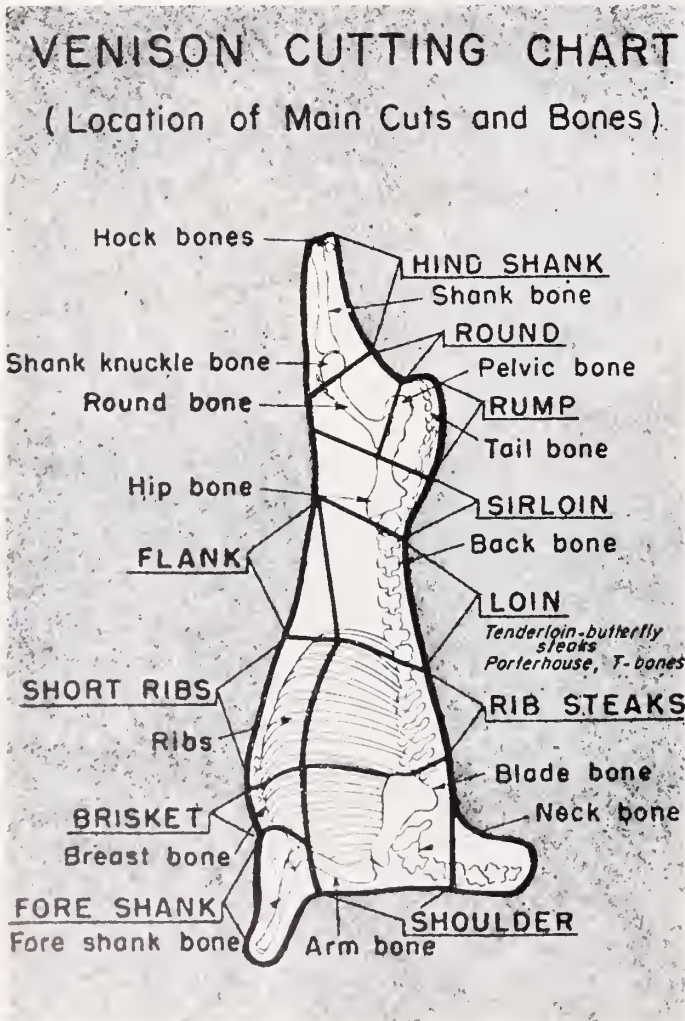
- 3 slices soft bread
- ¼ cup water
- 1½ pounds ground venison
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ⅔ cup finely chopped onion
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 tablespoon flour
- ¾ to 1 cup milk
- Salt and pepper (for gravy)

Soak bread in water for 5 minutes. Break into small bits, pressing out as much water as possible. Combine bread, ground venison, salt, pepper, and chopped onion. Blend lightly but thoroughly. Shape into small balls about 1 inch in diameter. Chill for 15 to 20 minutes. Brown on all sides in butter, turning frequently. Cover pan. Turn heat to low and cook for 15 minutes. Remove meat balls to separate pan and keep hot. Add flour, salt, and pepper to pan drippings; stir well. Add milk, stirring constantly, and simmer 3 or 4 minutes. Return meat balls to pan and simmer another 5 minutes.

*Venison Pot Roast With Vegetables*—serves 6 to 8. (Use cuts from the chuck, round, or rump.)

- One 3- to 4-pound venison roast
- ¼ cup cubed salt pork or mild bacon
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 6 carrots
- 6 onions
- 6 potatoes
- 1 stalk celery, sliced
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes or 1 tablespoon fresh, chopped parsley
- ¼ teaspoon thyme
- 1 cup tart fruit juice or cider
- 1 teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1½ cups hot water
- 3 tablespoons butter or drippings

Lard the roast well by inserting cubes of salt pork into small cuts in the roast. Heat butter in a Dutch oven or deep casserole and brown the meat on all sides. Add hot water,





fruit juice, celery, parsley, thyme, salt, and pepper. Cover and simmer gently for 3 hours on top of the stove or in the oven at 350° until meat is tender. If liquid gets too low, add water. About one hour before meal is to be served, add peeled potatoes, carrots, and onions. Add a little additional salt for vegetables. When vegetables are tender, remove them and the meat to a platter and keep hot. Thicken liquid with 2 or 3 tablespoons flour.

#### *Venison Swiss Steak* (for less tender steaks)

1½ pounds round steak

¼ cup fat

3 large onions

1 medium stalk celery

1 cup tomatoes

2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

Salt and pepper

Steak should be at least 1½ inches thick. Dredge with flour and season with salt and pepper; brown in fat on both sides. Add other ingredients. Cover tightly and cook in moderate oven (350°) or over low heat on top of stove until tender (about 1¼ hours).

#### *Teriyaki Steak Strips*

2 pounds venison steak, cut thin

1 can beef consommé (undiluted)

⅓ cup soya sauce

1 teaspoon savor salt

¼ cup chopped green onions (including tops)

1 clove garlic

2 tablespoons lemon juice

2 tablespoons brown sugar

Cut the steak diagonally, across the grain. Mix the other ingredients to form a marinating sauce. Pour the sauce over the meat strips and refrigerate overnight. Drain and broil 4 inches from the heat until tender. Do not overcook.

#### *Venison Sauerbraten* (Serves 4 or 5)

2 pounds of venison chuck, round, or rump roast

1 cup vinegar

6 peppercorns

5 whole cloves

3 bay leaves

Water to cover

3 tablespoons fat

6 carrots

6 onions

1 cup sliced celery

1 tablespoon sugar

10 gingersnaps, crushed

Trim all visible fat from venison. Place venison in glass dish with cover. Add peppercorns, cloves, and bay leaf to vinegar and pour over meat. Add enough water to cover meat. Cover dish and refrigerate. Allow to stand for at least 5 days.

Remove meat from marinade. Reserve the liquid for gravy. Heat fat in heavy frying pan. Brown meat on both sides. Add vegetables and 2 cups of vinegar marinade. Simmer until meat and vegetables are tender—approximately 1½ hours. Remove meat and vegetables from pan. Add sugar and gingersnaps to remaining liquid to make gravy.

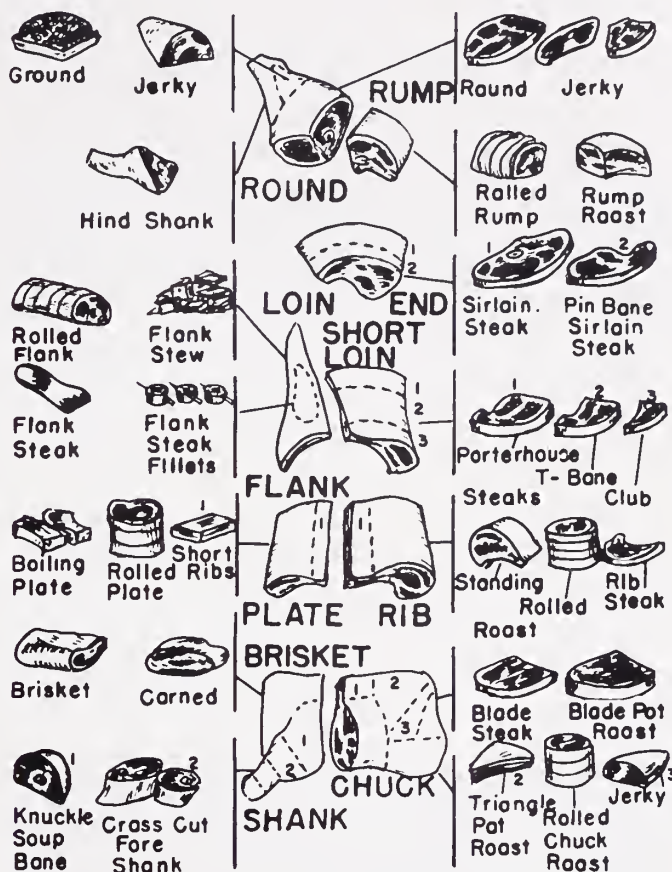
#### *Venison Burgers* (Serves 6)

2 pounds ground venison

¼ pound ground pork or mild sausage

1 medium onion, chopped

## BIG GAME MEAT CUTS



⅛ teaspoon black pepper

¼ teaspoon marjoram

¼ teaspoon thyme

¼ teaspoon monosodium glutamate (optional)

2 eggs, beaten

2 tablespoons melted fat

¼ cup sweet cider

Blend venison, pork, and chopped onion together. Add seasonings and beaten egg. Blend well. Form into small patties, about ¾ inch thick. Brown hamburgers on both sides in fat. Cover, reduce heat to low, and simmer for 10 minutes. Turn hamburgers. Add cider, cover, and simmer 10 minutes more. Serve immediately.

#### *Sausage*

You can grind venison up into delicious sausages. Sausage skins can be bought at most butcher stores. A half-pound of skins will hold about a hundred pounds of meat. Ask the butcher for advice on using the skins. Usually they should be soaked in lukewarm water and vinegar for three hours and then rinsed in water. The ground meat can be seasoned with spices (see any cookbook) and salt, and stuffed through a funnel (also available at a butcher shop) into delicious sausage links ready for smoking or boiling. When an air bubble develops in the skin while you are stuffing, prick it with a pin.

When you learn to cook venison well, you will look forward more eagerly than ever to the hunting season and find a greater and more lasting satisfaction in bagging your deer.



# CROW PREDATION ON NOXIOUS INSECTS

By DWIGHT R. CHAMBERLAIN  
*V. P. I. School of Forestry and Wildlife*

**F**ROM July 11-15, 1966, I was studying the communicative calls of two families of common crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*)—vocal signals between adults and immatures out of the nest. They inhabited a tract of deciduous woodlands and rolling pasture along Route 662, southwest of Craig Springs, Craig County, Virginia.

In addition, I noted the insectivorous feeding habits of the 10-12 adult and immature common crows in this area. At that time, only negligible differences in feeding methods by age were apparent as the juveniles were old enough to forage for themselves.

The green June-beetle or fig-eater (*Cotinus nitida*) appeared to be their staple quarry.

Both age groups of crows were observed pursuing and capturing these winged beetles in the following ways:

1. Picking these insects from the soil and short grass of the pasture with their beaks while walking. Strangely enough, fig-eaters crawl upon their backs, making no use of their short legs.

2. Flying up to and plucking them from the leaves of small deciduous shrubs in the pasture. They captured the beetles in their beaks while hovering in flight, and never lit in the foliage.

3. Jumping up from the ground and catching low flying beetles (which buzz like bees) with their beaks.

4. Flying as far as 40 yards from a non-productive feeding tract to a productive plot, apparently only after sighting crawling and flying beetles at this distance.

5. Using their wings and tail for support and balance while circuitously pursuing flying and crawling beetles in the short pastured grass.

In the South, this velvety "June-bug" is very common. The larvae feed upon the vegetable mold of rich soils. Sometimes they injure growing vegetables by severing the roots and sprouting stalks; but the chief injury is due to the upheaval of soil around the plants which disturbs the roots. The larvae are also troublesome to lawns and golf greens by making little mounds of earth on the surface. The adult fig-eaters frequently attack fruit, especially figs, peaches, and grapes.

In addition, I feel certain that the crows were also feeding on Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*), which were not scarce in this area during mid-July. I never positively observed this predation, but several crows that were shot in this vicinity later contained Japanese beetle integuments in their gizzards. This beetle is a very serious pest which feeds in the adult stage on the foliage of many cultivated and wild plants. In the larval state, it feeds on the roots of grasses.

Regarding common crow predation on insects in flight, I think the following account should be cited: At 8:00 p.m. on June 30, 1961, I noticed a large flock (250 to 300 birds) of common crows perching in and flying from a dead American elm (*Ulmus americanus*) which overlooked a treeless plot of

Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York. A closer scrutiny revealed these birds to be in aerial pursuit of European chafers (*Amphimallon majalis* Raz.).

The adult chafers are flying beetles which swarm about foliage at dusk. The crows, in spite of their large size, were very dexterous in catching the chafers on the wing. The birds flew from a base perch, pursued the quarry, caught it while hovering, and returned to the perch. It should be noted that crows (perching birds) generally feed on the ground, and rarely on the wing.

The larval stage of the European chafer is injurious to the roots of most grasses.

Kalmbach (1939) states: "about 28 percent of the yearly food of the adult crow is animal matter." Bent (1946) states: "about two-thirds of the animal food consists of insects, chief among which are beetles and their larvae and Orthoptera (grasshoppers, locusts, and crickets), each group constituting more than 7 percent of the food of the crow, and comprises the essential beneficial feature of the food habits of the species."

The number and species of insects consumed by crows



Immature common crow about to swallow a green June-beetle.

vary with the season. For example, the monthly increase in grasshoppers from May to September is shown in the crow's diet, in which these insects comprise respectively by month 4, 6, 14, 19, and 19 percent of the food taken.

During outbreaks of such insect pests, the common crow becomes a valuable agent in their control. In central Illinois, Bent (1946) observed large flocks of crows following the plow, where they were devouring great numbers of grubs of the destructive May beetle (*Phyllophaga*). Alexander (1930) states that in Kansas crows eat enormous numbers of grubs and cutworms (Lepidoptera, larvae of owlet-moths) during the early spring. These rascally organisms are very destructive to wheat in that state.

As sure as night and day, the crow's behavior is also black and white.

I am most grateful to Dr. Herbert M. Kulman, Assistant Professor, Departments of Entomology and Forestry and Wildlife, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia, for his assistance in supplying information about the green June-beetle and Japanese beetle.





excellent shooting lanes and can be used as firebreaks. The seeded strip in the center furnishes food for game and provides an insect feeding area for grouse and turkeys.

Sprouts and slash along the 20 foot side portions furnish browse for deer, as well as the necessary edge effect, nesting areas and brood cover for birds.

Three miles of these wildlife strip clearings were established in the Poverty and Craigs Creek sections of Montgomery County this past spring through cooperative agreement. The Forest Service and Virginia Game Commission provided supervision, labor and equipment while the county supplied funds for fertilizer and seed from surplus dog funds, appropriated to the Federation of Game and Fish Clubs of Montgomery County by the Board of Supervisors.

## WILDLIFE STRIP CLEARINGS

## BENEFIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY HUNTERS

By NELSON O. PRICE, *Chairman*  
*Federation of Game and Fish Clubs of Montgomery County*

**S**PORTSMEN visiting the Jefferson National Forest will find some of the old logging roads have taken on a new look.

Foresters, in cooperation with Virginia Game Commission biologists, have been engaged in a type of wildlife habitat work which should benefit both hunters and game.

Multi-purpose strip clearings are being established along old logging trails. These trails, which are not suitable to be maintained for vehicle travel, are drained, disked, fertilized, and seeded to oats and clover.

All timber 20 feet on both sides of the trail is felled, while beneficial shrubs are left standing. These 20 foot strips will be maintained in sprout growth.

Advantages of this type clearing are many. Timber is sold to local operators where possible; the clearings provide



## TROUT SUCCESS GOOD IN DOUTHAT

**P**RELIMINARY data from experimental trout stocking at Douthat State Park Lake this summer indicates that it may be suitable for development of the Virginia Game Commission's second pay-as-you-go trout fishery in cooperation with the Virginia Division of Parks.

Trout were experimentally stocked at the rate of 200 per week during the early part of the summer; then the stocking rate was increased to 400 to test summer survival and recovery rates. If the lake is utilized for a pay-as-you-go facility, stocking will be based on the anticipated number of fishermen from day to day. A sufficient backlog of trout would be stocked to boost the average creel to 2.5 trout per angler; then subsequent stocking would keep it at this level.

Anglers would be required to pay \$1 daily fee for fishing in the lake. The daily creel limit would be 5 trout. No trout license would be required and 3-day trip fishing license would be honored.

Anglers participating in this type of angling pay their own way at no expense to other fishing license holders. Three trout are stocked for each angler and these are paid for by the \$1 daily fee. "This is the only way we can expand our trout program without an increase in license fees," Martin said. The state's current stream stocking program can provide only 8 trout per angler per year from existing revenues. Fee fishing facilities do relieve some pressure on other trout streams, making conditions better for trout license holders.



# Goodbye Wilderness

By RANDY CARTER

Warrenton

**T**HE two are inseparable—wilderness and wildlife—and how else can it ever be? And how can we hold to wildlife while we devastate its home in the wilderness with ever increasing speed?

This spring, my wife and I took a canoe trip down the beautiful Shenandoah River from Luray to Bentonville, and I thought back to my first trip on the same river forty years ago. The river was the same now, only more murky, and the Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountains stood in their blue-clad splendor as they did before, but the spirit of the river had sickened. Its wildlife had left it, and in its place had come the droves of fishermen and campers, canoeists, and shacks and trucks along the roads by the riverside, the motorboat and the noise and clatter of civilization—with its trash and tin cans.

In this twenty-five miles of river I saw but three pair of wood ducks, and but one flock of their young ducklings. Gone entirely were the great blue herons and the sparkling white egrets gracing the shallow waters with their delicate beauty. Gone were the eagles. Gone were the ospreys—this great fisherman from the sky so thrilling to watch as he dives from above the treetops, splashing into the river to emerge from under its surface with a fish held in his great talons. He shakes himself in flight, and the water sparkles from his feathers. A sight to see.

Gone were the many quiet places to stop and camp overnight. Now campsite follows campsite in close order, and where there are no shacks or campers, one sees the posted signs saying "Keep Off."

## No Houses

**L**IKE a bit of heaven, is the way I describe the view from my study—a backdrop of woods, a split-rail fence and a glimpse of the lake.

It is an unspectacular scene, really; but there are no houses to crowd for an expanse of three hundred feet, and seldom children to disturb the snow, for the trees are too dense for winter play. It never becomes monotonous. For the changing seasons vary the landscape, and with them always comes my awareness of new feelings when, in quiet meditation, I can steal a moment and feel, despite popular opinion to the contrary, that life is a precious thing.

In spring, I witness the pregnant dogwoods as they bear and hold a canopy of snowflakes suspended between earth and sky. Summer shields, from the passionate sun, with a thick, leafy foliage that tumbles vineward to earth, scattering about an extravagant carpet of green. The gay carnival of autumn opens with a masquerade featuring vivid shades of yellows, browns, and reds, as high-spirited squirrels cavort and swing daringly on taut branches. When winter comes to make her rounds, she begins by securely tucking in each little, growing thing and covering all with a thick, white blanket of snow. The earth sleeps.

In the heavy, cold silence, the cracking of icicles can be heard before the north wind stalks and ravishes the stark, naked branches, as they entwine protectively against its fury.

That night we camped beside the river in the most secluded place we could find, as far from civilization as we could get, but not far enough to find solitude, not far enough to get away from the blaring of a radio and the coming and going of cars. I remembered my first trip of many years ago when there was quietness on the river, and the only music coming from the rippling of the water. And somewhere far off, the eerie hooting of a great owl wove a spell of witchery about the crisp moonlit night.

Now, years later, as I lay in my sleeping bag, I thought of that voice that had come hooting through the dark forest to send a chill of mystery through the night. Somehow without it, the wilderness had been struck dumb, and now I wondered how can anyone miss this sound who has never heard it?

But I missed it. It seemed to me the wilderness had lost its voice. We can make all kinds of noisy machines—juke boxes and radios—but when the wilderness is all gone, who can bring back the hoot of an owl? Who will have a forest to walk in, or a river clean enough to drink from or swim in? We are rushing so madly to get away from the civilization we have made that we are just as madly rushing in to destroy and crowd out the last footholds of the wilderness we hope to preserve.

Are we going to totally destroy all the things that the outdoorsman lives for and hopes to find and enjoy? We've got to decide on this right now; it cannot be put off much longer.

By CHARLENE BALLENGEE-WALL

Williamsburg

This is a world bounded by 200 feet in each direction—and *there are no houses*. Nature proceeds from season to season uninterrupted. I watch this little world as though I were Adam, and it is all new.

Because I have lived in a number of places and suffered through countless, colorlessly monotonous days, I've wondered why there never seemed to be a sanctuary where one could forget, or remember, as one chose. But stimuli, pressing in from all directions, appear to be our Twentieth Century curse. There is no time—grass is trampled before it can sprout; flowers are plucked before they can bloom, and snow dirtied before it cleanses.

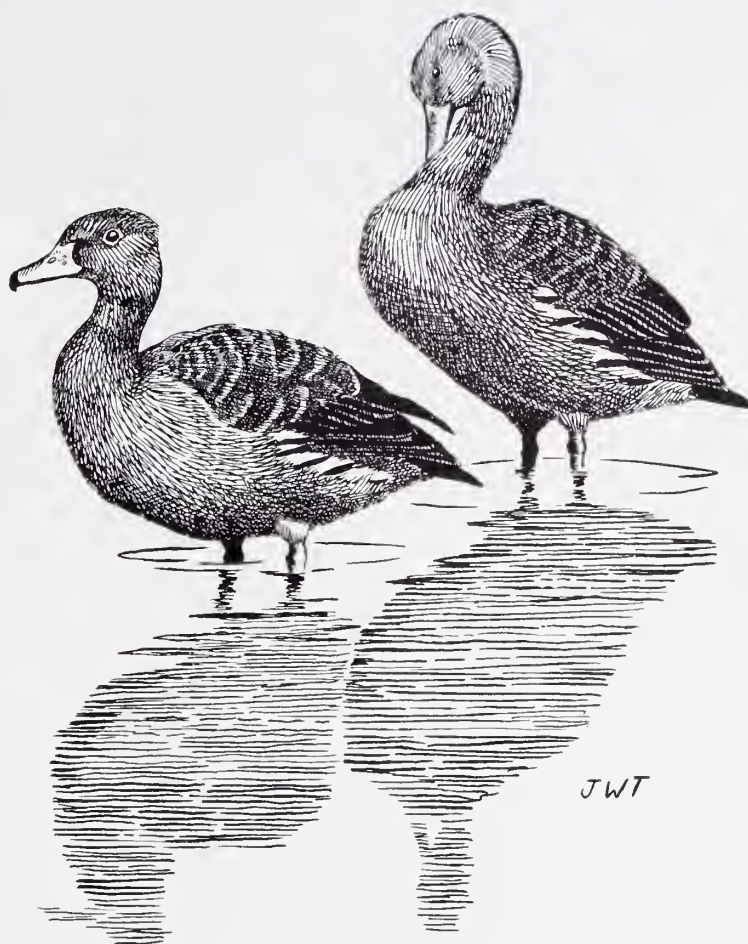
But from my study, the split-rail fence is a formidable fortress, commanded by a border of courageous evergreens, posted so that no man can intrude. My trees can, without restraint, reach for the sky and my birds can sing and feed leisurely. The grass grows vigorously and untrampled. All things that wish to grow, *can* grow.

It is my desire that they proceed from season to season in their own time (as is their nature), living and dying and being reborn.

This is mine . . . I can watch what is before me, dream about what lies beyond, or simply forget, if I choose. But, sometimes, I wonder about a world in which, for the fortunate few, a bit of heaven must be contained in an exclusive suburban plot, two hundred by two hundred.



*Bird  
of  
the  
Month:*



## *Fulvous Tree Duck*

By DR. J. J. MURRAY  
*Lexington*

IT is not often that a new bird becomes a resident of our state. Accidental appearances of many unusual birds we have, but not settlers. From time to time there are strange irruptions of some species of bird into a new territory. Usually this invasion does not take hold, the birds soon disappearing from the new area. When a bird does take hold in a new country it seems to be because there is an unoccupied niche there which the bird can fill. When that does take place, the new species is apt to multiply almost explosively. That happened, of course, when the starling was brought from Britain. And this has been the case in the East with the fulvous tree duck.

The normal home of this duck is the territory from central California to the gulf coast of east Texas and southern Louisiana. A few years ago it began to move eastward. It first appeared in Virginia in 1960 at several places. In the spring of that year a pair visited Williamsburg in late March and April. In October one was seen at Long Island in Back Bay. Two were shot in another part of Back Bay in November and several in that region in December.

Since then these birds have increased rapidly along the Virginia coast and have spread northward. They have also moved inland until we have many records in the upper Piedmont. There are also records in the Valley; in Rockingham County, 21 birds seen by Mrs. John Kline on May 1,

1962, and at Lexington, two seen by Royster Lyle on April 3, 1965, the birds in both cases being seen later by other observers. It is still mainly a fall, winter, and spring visitor in Virginia. In 1965 it nested in Florida. Some were present through that summer at Chincoteague, so that no doubt we shall soon have nesting records for Virginia.

The fulvous tree duck is an aberrant member of the wildfowl group. With its long neck and long legs it looks more like a little goose than a duck. It roosts at times in trees, although not as much as its name would suggest.

The male and female are alike, light tan in color, with a cream stripe along the sides, darker on the back and with very dark linings to the wings. There is a curved white band at the base of the tail. Its goose shape and its small size, 20 inches in length, serve to identify it. Its local name in its home country, "Squealer," describes its call.

This bird had been present in our state for several years before I was fortunate enough to see one, and then it was not in Virginia. My first experience with the bird was in my family's old home country of Edisto Island, South Carolina. Visiting a cousin there in March 1965, he described some strange water birds that he had seen. "They must be tree ducks," I said. We drove over to a wet pasture where there were shallow pools, and there found a flock of 35 of these handsome tree ducks feeding in one of the pools.





Edited by HARRY GILLAM

### Whittaker Named Warden of Year



Jerry D. Whittaker, State Game Warden stationed in Franklin County, has been selected as Virginia Game Warden of the Year. As recipient of this honor, Whittaker attended the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, October 24, 25 and 26, where he was given special recognition along with similar candidates from other southeastern states.

Jerry began work with the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries in 1962 as one of the first game warden trainees selected under the Commission's new warden recruitment program. He was sent to Franklin County for training under Warden Gordon T. Preston, and has remained there since that time.

Whittaker has had two rather large-scale enforcement problems to deal with since he began work in Franklin County. With the impoundment of Smith Mountain Lake, which he regularly patrols, came a great army of neophyte boaters, many of whom were ignorant of the laws and rules for safe boating. The lake, as part of the Roanoke River, was one of the first places in the state that the 12-inch bass limit was tried on an experimental basis. Since the lake had a very large number of newly stocked bass that

were not yet legal size, it put a great burden on law enforcement personnel in the area to keep it patrolled.

Whittaker was born in Bristol and graduated from Washington County High. He, his wife Ernestine, and their three children reside in Penhook. Since beginning his tenure with the Virginia Commission, Whittaker has successfully completed the Dale Carnegie course in public speaking.

### Salt Increases Grass In Back Bay

Waterfowl food plants in the southern end of Back Bay have shown a marked improvement in growth apparently as a result of the controlled introduction of salt water. The salt pumping project sponsored by the City of Virginia Beach is now in its second year. A 36-inch pumping station lifts water from the Atlantic and introduces it in the vicinity of Shipp's Bay and North Bay.

The pump has been operating two 8-hour shifts each day during September and October following a midsummer breakdown. The overall salinity in the sections of the bay where improvement in plant growth has been noted ranges around 8-9‰. Following a six-year study, biologists recommended a 10-15‰ level of salt as optimum for the Virginia portion of the Back Bay-Currituck Sound waterway.

A slight improvement in plant growth was noted in the vicinity of the inlet pipe following last year's pumping efforts. That area remains about the same this year, but marked improvement has been noted in the vicinity of Commission-owned Poahontas marsh and along the eastern side of the bay.

Duck shooting in the Back Bay area has suffered periodically when the salinity level dropped and the silted water produced little aquatic food material to hold the birds. The higher salinity stimulates plant growth by helping to settle the salt. Storms which breached barrier dunes created this condition which gave the area its reputation as a duck haven in past years.

### Commission Personnel Band 1,178 Doves

Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries banded 1,178 doves prior to the hunting season this fall, according to Game Research Biologist J. V. Gwynn. This makes the third year that the Virginia Commission and fish and game agencies from other southeastern states have cooperated with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in banding doves for analysis of mortality and movement.

A specified number of birds are banded in each state before the season opens; then a similar number are banded after the season. The percentage of these bands returned gives an indication of hunting season mortality, while the pattern of the returns gives indication of movement.

The results of the first year's efforts showed that 5.2% of the preseason bands were returned compared to only 1% of the post-season bands. A few summer banded birds from Virginia were killed in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Alabama during the latter part of the season, but 86% of the band returns were from within Virginia.

### Lunker From Southwest



W. H. Hall of Bluefield, West Virginia, displays a 10 pound 2 ounce largemouth he caught in Falls Mills Lake. The lunker fell for a rubber worm, and Hall brought him to net using 8 pound line. This is the largest bass submitted for a citation from southwestern Virginia with the exception of Carvins Cove and Claytor Lake.





Edited by ANN PILCHER

#### 4-H Picnic and Fishing Rodeo



Photos by Frymyer, VPI Ext. Service  
Left: Walter Marlowe, SCS, stands beside Jeff White and his 14½ inch bass. Right: James Sargent's crappie was largest fish caught by 10-14 year olds.

This summer C. C. Miller of Guard Hill Road was host to the annual Warren County 4-H picnic and fishing rodeo. Forty anglers caught 96 fish from two ponds in the contest. 4-H'er Kenneth Fultz caught the most—19 bluegills. Jeff White caught the only bass, but it was a hefty 14½ inch specimen.

Prizes were awarded in four categories by Raymond Rudacille of the Lord Fairfax Soil Conservation District: Largest fish in each age group—Jeff White, Junior Williams, Mary Minnick and Kathryn Smith; *smallest fish* (4 inches)—Clay Robinson and Kenneth Fultz; *most fish in age group*—Clay Robinson and Ashby Sargent.

Game Warden James W. Simpson provided instructions on safety in handling fishing equipment. Soil Conservationists John Crist and Walter Marlowe instructed in pond management. Extension Agents Arlis Frymyer, Mary Helen Loftin and Kathryn Smith planned the event.

#### Participate, Says Contest Winner

As the school season nears, I find myself again thinking about the annual Wildlife Essay Contest and how fortunate I was to be the scholarship winner for the year 1966.

I would like to thank all associated with the contest for the scholarship and enjoyable trip to Richmond.

Participation in the Wildlife Essay Contest is a rich and rewarding experience, and I would like to encourage more grade and high school students to enter.

—Teresa B. Waddle, Bland

#### IWL Sponsors Shenandoah Rodeo

Approximately 75 boys and girls, ages 4 to 15, took part in the September 10 Annual Fishing Rodeo at Lake Shenandoah, sponsored by the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

As soon as the whistle was blown at 2:30 p.m. to start the fishing for the largest and most fish caught by 4:00 p.m., the excited youthful anglers cast baits of every description into the lake with lots of hope. Although the contest had not been scheduled until the afternoon some of the young eager-beavers were on hand as early as eight o'clock in the morning.

Eleven-year-old Ann Allen took two of the prizes in the girl's division, as she caught the largest and the most fish. The youngest miss fishing was Christie Long, age 7. In the boy's division, Jeff Gilbert, age 9, caught the largest fish and Jim McConnon, age 10, caught the most. George Aldhizer, Jr., age 4, was the youngest fisherman.

The weather was clear and mild, and the fish were cooperating. At some of the hot spots many tangled lines resulted. Some caught fish; some didn't. When a big bass leaped out of the water, broke his line and took off with his lure, nine-year-old Jeffrey Thompson of Dayton said with a smile, "Darnit—that's fisherman's luck."

Hot dogs and soft drinks ended the event.

—Courtesy Ernest J. Foldi

Parents, sponsors and contestants line Polaris Farm Pond during the Ben Jarman Memorial Fishing Rodeo.



#### Rodeo Attracts Record Field

Two hundred and one boys and girls fished at Polaris Farm Pond on August 13 while taking part in the annual Ben Jarman Memorial Fishing Rodeo sponsored by the Albemarle County chapter of the Izaak Walton League. The contest was open to boys and girls not yet 15. No entrance fee was charged. Participants were required to furnish their own bait and fishing gear and to be accompanied by a parent or sponsor. Fishing started at 10 a.m., with prizes awarded at 11:30 a.m.

The turnout was one of the largest in the history of the contest. The youngsters landed 825 fish and a frog. Paul Easter won the prize for the most fish caught—75. He also was cited for catching the smallest fish—just shy of three inches long. Keith Haney and Susan Morris won the awards for the largest fish caught. Jill Townsend hooked the frog. Other winners were Byrd Fisher, Cheryl Jones, Lisa Bailey, Debra Gormes, Debra Tilman, Barbara Wood, Mick Robinson, Shelby Farish, Glenn Easter, Sharon Wood, Judy Collier, Tod Abernathy (great grandson of the rodeo's founder—Ben Jarman), Jeff Frazier, David Kirschnick, Tim Ryalls, Church Hughes, Carter Waddell, Steve Kirschnick, Michael Crawford, Harold Craig and Wanda Wood.

Presence of the Rescue Squad and Boy Scout Troop 106 of Ivy was especially reassuring to the parents.

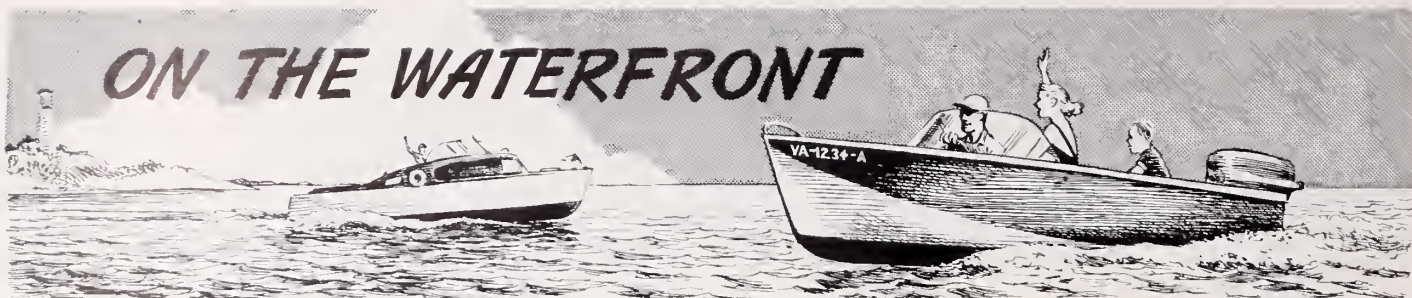
—Courtesy Chris Greene and the Charlottesville Daily Progress

Fishing champs display their awards.

Lars Sjostrom photos







Edited by JIM KERRICK

### **Save Time Next Spring— Store Outboard Properly**

If you're a "Johnny come lately" every year, always the last to get your rig in the water, here's some good advice. Proper winter storage will mean less preparation next spring. It's also good protection against early season performance problems.

Improper storage can actually do more harm to your engine than two or three seasons of rugged use. Moisture is the culprit. It can rust piston rings and cylinder walls, shorten gear life and corrode ignition and fuel systems.

Your winter storage project should include maintenance of the carburetion and fuel systems, gear case housing, propeller, battery and routine lubrication. Be systematic. Prepare a checklist of the work to be done and check off each item as it's completed. If you don't think you have the mechanical know-how to cover all steps, take your engine to a qualified marine dealer. The few dollars it will cost may save you hundreds.

Your engine's cooling system should be flushed with fresh water before storing. The easiest way is to run it, either mounted on your boat or in a test tank. Just before shutting off the engine, introduce rust preventive oil, sometimes called fogging oil, directly into the carburetor reservoir. While the engine is running, disconnect the fuel line. It will continue to run for a few moments on gas already in the engine. This insures that the fogging oil will be circulated throughout the power head.

Drain the entire fuel system: tank, lines, fuel filter and filter bowl. Fuel, allowed to stagnate in the system, will deposit gum or varnish in the system and cause the valves to stick.

The gear case housing on the lower unit should be drained and refilled with lubricant recommended by the manufacturer. Do not leave the housing dry. This is inviting corrosion.

Many springtime performance problems can be traced to a propeller that is out of pitch, bent or nicked. Now's

the time to have your marine dealer check it over. Minor flaws can be corrected easily and inexpensively. Lubricate the propeller shaft and install the prop with a new cotter pin.

Batteries used on electric start outboards should be cleaned and, if necessary, charged. They should be stored in a cool, dry place.

Your owner's manual contains a guide to lubricating all fittings and wear points. In addition to these, apply a light coat of oil to all exposed metal surfaces.

Select your storage area carefully. Your best bet is your local marine dealer. Areas with high humidity or extreme temperature fluctuations should be avoided.

### **Accidents Are Caused**

Most people think that accidents just happen—that they are just due to "bad luck." These same people would laugh if you said they were superstitious. But the attitude that accidents just happen, that they can't be avoided, is just as ridiculous as that old wives' tale about black cats and broken mirrors.

Nothing could be farther from the truth than this belief about accidents being unavoidable. Experts say that practically all accidents—say 99 out of a hundred—are avoidable. And if you want more proof, just look at the reduction in the longshore accident record that has taken place in the past few years. There would be no accounting for the drop if accidents "just happened." That we've cut down the accident toll shows we can do something about them, that they can be prevented.

Now the one or so out of a hundred accidents that cannot be prevented might be called "Acts of God"—lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes, tidal waves, happenings that we are practically powerless to prevent, although we can take some precautions against them. The other 99 percent of accidents clearly have a man-made cause. If you check back far enough, you'll find that somewhere, somehow, someone could have done something to prevent most accidents.

### **Don't Be a Quitter; Enjoy Fall Boating**

Wait! Don't put your boat away. You still have two good boating months ahead of you.

If you fall into this category, just look at what you're missing: great fishing; wide open waterways; low, off-season rates; and some of the most striking scenery of the year.

As cooler temperatures return, fish become more active. This holds promise of plenty of action. You can freeze those late season catches and enjoy game fish year-round. The best part is that you'll probably have your favorite hot spot all to yourself.

Cruising and camping enthusiasts are in for a special treat. Sure, the weather can be a little chilly, but that's easily solved by taking along a lightweight jacket or sweater. You'll find the waterways and campgrounds will be "private" vacation areas for you and your family.

If fall camping sounds a bit too challenging, you'll be in for a surprise when you stop at popular summer resorts. Room rates and meal prices are usually drastically reduced. You can enjoy the finest facilities without fracturing the family budget.

Tree-lined rivers and lakes are at their colorful best during the autumn months. Photography buffs will find plenty of outstanding scenes, and even the casual sight-seer will be thrilled by the rainbow of colors.


What about the water ski buffs. Well, if you're hearty soul, a wet suit affords good protection against chilly winds and water. Give it a try!

### **Protect Boat Trailer**

The tires on your boat trailer will deteriorate rapidly if left standing on concrete or damp ground during the winter.

Even trailers stored in your garage should be protected. The tires can pick up excess oil. Put your trailer on blocks with the tires touching the surface slightly.





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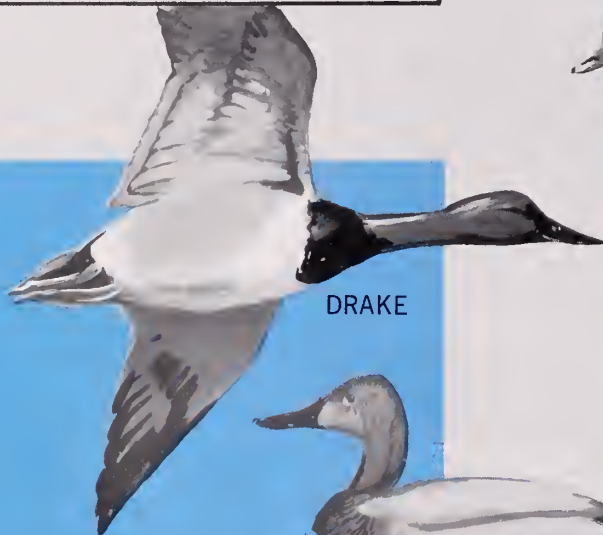
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# Know These Waterfowl

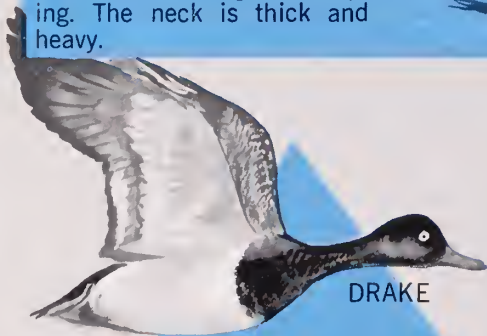


DRAKE

The CANVASBACK flies with a rapid and noisy wingbeat. The forehead is high and sloping. The neck is thick and heavy.



HEN

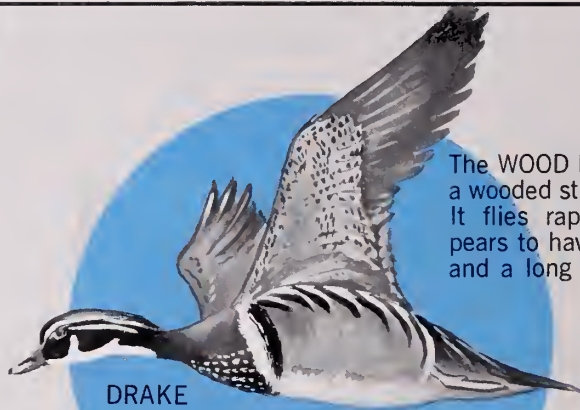


DRAKE



HEN

The SCAUP, greater and lesser, are often considered simply as "bluebills" because they are difficult to tell apart.

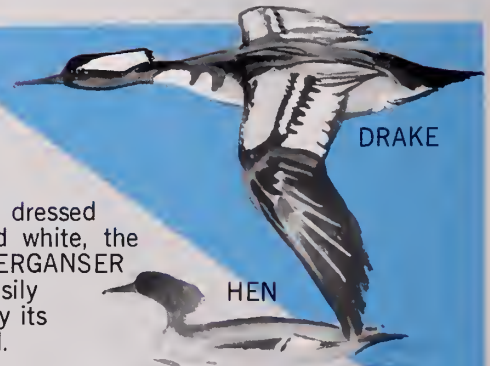


DRAKE

The WOOD DUCK prefers a wooded stream or pond. It flies rapidly and appears to have a short bill and a long tail.



HEN



DRAKE

A small bird dressed in black and white, the HOODED MERGANSER should be easily recognized by its crested head.



HEN



DRAKE

The RING-NECKED DUCK is very similar in size and markings to the Scaup. The light bands at the bill tip and base help identify it.



HEN

## SPECIAL MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REGULATIONS:

Not more than 2 wood ducks may be included in the daily bag limit of 3 ducks.

Not more than 2 canvasbacks may be included in the daily bag limit of 3 ducks.

Not more than 1 hooded merganser may be included in the daily bag limit of 5 mergansers.

Not more than 2 each of wood ducks, canvasbacks and hooded mergansers may be in possession at any time.

In addition to the daily bag limit of 3 ducks, 2 "bonus" scaup or ringnecked ducks, or one of each, may be taken on tidal waters of Accomack and Northampton Counties and the waters of the Chesapeake Bay proper, November 15 through January 7.